

## Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 081225Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3729

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 12210

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CB

SUBJ: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT LON NOL TO PRESIDENT NIXON

1. TRANSMITTED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS IS THE EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF PRESIDENT LON NOL'S HANDWRITTEN DRAFT OF A LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 7, 1973 TO PRESIDENT NIXON. THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO THE WHITE HOUSE. THE SIGNED, TYPED COPY OF THIS LETTER WILL BE AIRPOUCHED WHEN RECEIVED.

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH GREAT SATISFACTION THE FAVORABLE EVOLUTION OF OUR DIPLOMATIC BATTLE AT THE UN AND IN OTHER RELATED INTERNATIONAL FORUMS THANKS TO YOUR FIRM AND ACTIVE SUPPORT.

3. I AM CERTAIN THAT, BECAUSE OF THIS DYNAMIC SYNCHRONIZED ACTION, THE INDOCHINESE COMMUNIST FRONT WILL CEASE TO REGISTER THE FORWARD PROGRESS WHICH IT WISHES TO MAKE IN OUR REGION. IT WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO UNDERWRITE AGGRESSION AND WILL BE FORCED TO WITHDRAW ITS TENTACLES TO HANOI. MR. PRESIDENT, IN THE NAME OF MY PEOPLE I ASK YOU ACCEPT MY VERY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THIS DIPLOMATIC STRUGGLE.

4. AS FOR THE COMING DRY SEASON BATTLE, WE ARE ENERGETICALLY PREPARING OURSELVES FOR IT. THERE IS A NEED FOR MORE M-113'S, MORE ARTILLERY, MORE ARMORED RIVER CRAFT  
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AND MORE AMMUNITIONS TO DESTROY THE ENEMY ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND CANNONS BURIED IN THE BANKS OF THE MEKONG FOR AN ATTEMPT TO CUT THIS RIVER AT THE MOMENT OF THE OFFENSIVE AGAINST PHNOM PENH. I WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ANY

HELP THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT PROVIDE US IN THIS REGARD.

5. PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE FOND ASSURANCES OF MY VERY HIGH CONSIDERATION. LON NOL. END TEXT.

6. COMMENT. I HAVE ALREADY INFORMED LON NOL THAT A DRY SEASON INVESTMENT PACKAGE OF TWO APC TROOPS, EIGHT RIVER BOATS, AND TWO DIVISION UPGRADE ELEMENTS, INCLUDING TWELVE 155MM HOWITZERS IS UNDER PREPARATION. HOWEVER BOTH CHMEDTC AND I HAVE STRESSED THAT USG IS DEVELOPING THIS PACKAGE IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THE FANK WILL MAKE A NEW AND DECISIVE EFFORT TO PURGE THE ROLLS AND GET RID OF PHANTOMS. WE PROPOSE TO DELAY SOMEWHAT MORE (AS MUCH AS WE CAN AND STILL GIVE THE FANK TIME TO GET READY TO RECEIVE THE DRY SEASON PACKAGE) IN ORDER TO KEEP THE HEAT ON LON NOL AND SOSTHENE TO COME UP WITH NEW ACTION ON THE PHANTOM ISSUE.  
ENDERS

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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